



## Studies in the News for



## Children and Families Commission

---

### Contents This Week

#### **IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

[Videos on early childhood assessment](#)

[Head Start and child assessment](#)

[Why play is important in kindergarten](#)

[Policymaking for infants and toddlers](#)

#### **IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING**

[State-based home visiting programs](#)

[Parenting support access lowers maltreatment risk](#)

[Family leave policies](#)

[State report card on child homelessness](#)

[Strengthening families: 2009 resource guide](#)

#### **IMPROVED HEALTH**

[Maternal and child health care](#)

[The case against breastfeeding](#)

[Breastfeeding and SIDS](#)

[Teen birth statistics](#)

[Brief on increase in teen births](#)

#### **IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE**

[Parents' perspectives on child care](#)

[California ranks low in care oversight and regulation](#)

[Economic recovery funds and child care](#)

## **STUDIES TO COME**

[Consequences of the “clean plate club”](#)

## **CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

[National American Indian Conference - “Protecting our Children”](#)

[Excellence in Early Childhood Educational Leadership Seminars](#)

[CDPI 2009 Spring Institute](#)

## **Introduction to Studies in the News**

Studies in the News: Children and Family Supplement is a service provided to the First 5 California Children and Families Commission by the California State Library. The service features weekly lists of current articles focusing on Children and Family policy. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/ccfc/>.

## **How to Obtain Materials Listed in SITN:**

- When available on the Internet, the URL for the full-text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact Information Resources & Government Publications at (916-654-0081; [csinfo@library.ca.gov](mailto:csinfo@library.ca.gov)).
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

## **IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**Results Matter Video Series on Early Childhood Assessment. By the Colorado Department of Education. (The Department, Denver, Colorado) Video series.**

Videos at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/RMVideoSeries.htm>

[“The Colorado Department of Education’s Results Matter Program is pleased to share a collection of videos... that help providers better understand ways to use observation, documentation, and assessment to inform practice. Two styles of videos are provided: 1) practitioners discussing and illustrating their exemplary practices; and 2) clips for practicing observation, documentation and assessment skills, showing children participating in typical routines and activities. You can watch the videos online or download the free clips for use in educational and professional development activities. Additional clips are will be added periodically, so check back from time-to-time.”  
Natural Resources (March 18, 2009.)]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Implementation of the Head Start National Reporting System: Spring 2007, Final Report.** By Louisa B. Tarullo and others. (Mathematica Policy Research Inc., Washington, DC) December 2008. 158 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/early%20childhood/headstart\\_nrs2007.pdf](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/early%20childhood/headstart_nrs2007.pdf)

[“Over four years of implementation of the Head Start National Reporting System, a direct assessment of 4-year-olds in the year prior to kindergarten, Mathematica staff visited multiple nationally representative samples of programs, observed child assessments, and interviewed program staff. This report chronicles the last round of data collection in spring 2007, before the National Reporting System was terminated. In its studies of regional, tribal, and migrant Head Start programs over the years, Mathematica found that assessors met or exceeded certification standards, and children generally reacted well to the assessments. Mathematica has recommended that Head Start provide further information to help programs select, interpret, and use child assessment data.” Mathematica.]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Crisis in the Kindergarten: Why Children Need to Play in School.** By Edward Miller and Joan Almon. (Alliance for Childhood, College Park, Maryland) 2009. 72 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten\\_report.pdf](http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf)

[“New research shows that many kindergartens spend 2 to 3 hours per day instructing and testing children in literacy and math - with only 30 minutes per day or less for play. In some kindergartens there is no playtime at all. The same didactic, test-driven approach is entering preschools. But these methods, which are not well grounded in research, are not yielding long-term gains. Meanwhile, behavioral problems and preschool expulsion, especially for boys, are soaring.” Alliance for Childhood.]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Early Experiences Matter: A Guide to Improved Policies for Infants and Toddlers.** By Debbie Rappaport and others. (Zero to Three, Washington, DC) 2009. 117 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter\\_pub\\_earlyexperiences#agenda](http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter_pub_earlyexperiences#agenda)

[“Policymaking is not an easy job, and policymakers need concise, practical information to use when crafting policies to address pressing social issues. Just like our work with very young children, policymaking requires a multi-faceted approach which brings together evidence from science, research and practice. Zero to Three combines these elements in ‘Early Experiences Matter: A Guide to Improved Policies for Infants and Toddlers,’ a comprehensive set of tools for use by policymakers and advocates. The ‘Policy Guide’ includes: Eleven concise issue briefs which support Zero to Three’s policy agenda of Good Health, Strong Families, Positive Early Learning Experiences, and Systems Building; Infant-toddler data to inform the policymaking process; A compilation of the evidence for investing in the infant-toddler policy agenda; A strategic look at ways to get started, with sample policy options and state examples; In-depth issue papers and policymaking tools.”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## **IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING**

**State-based Home Visiting: Strengthening Programs through State Leadership. By Kay Johnson. (National Center for Children in Poverty, New York, New York) February 2009. 28 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_862.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_862.pdf)

[“This report examines whether states are investing in home visiting in ways that promote better outcomes for young children and whether they meet the needs of children facing the greatest social and developmental risks. The purpose was to assess the direction of state policies and programs, not to evaluate program effectiveness.”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**“Population-Based Prevention of Child Maltreatment: The U.S. Triple P System Population Trial.” By Ronald J. Prinz and others. IN: Prevention Science, vol. 10, no. 1 (March 2009) pp. 1-12.**

Full text at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/a737l8k762l8j7k2/fulltext.pdf>

[“When parents have access to proven parenting information and support designed to address problems all families face - from tantrums to encouraging good behavior - key measures of child maltreatment fall, according to a study.... The study, which was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found lower rates of confirmed abuse cases, child out-of-home placements, and hospitalizations and emergency room visits for child injuries in counties where parenting support was implemented. ‘Previous studies have shown reductions in children’s social, emotional and behavioral problems,’ said Ron Prinz, Ph.D., at the University of South Carolina, the

study's lead investigator. 'This is the first large-scale study to show that by providing all families, not just families in crisis, with access to parenting information and support, we can reduce the rates of child maltreatment in whole communities.' Using a multi-level system of parenting support called the Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, nine study counties in South Carolina implemented a wide range of support mechanisms for parents including local media, brief public seminars, and parent consultation by specially trained providers in clinics, schools, churches, and community centers. Researchers estimate the results of this study could translate annually into 688 fewer cases of child maltreatment, 240 fewer out-of-home placements, and 60 fewer children with injuries requiring hospitalization or emergency room treatment for every 100,000 children under age 8." CDC Press Release (January 26, 2009.)]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Paid Leave in the States: A Critical Support for Low-wage Workers and Their Families. By Sarah Fass. (National Center for Children in Poverty, New York, New York) 2009. 12 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_864.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_864.pdf)

["Juggling work and family responsibilities is a challenge for millions of families. Low-wage workers can find this balancing act especially difficult since they are more likely to work in jobs with few benefits and limited flexibility. 'Paid Leave in the States' finds that paid leave can support both child and family well-being and family economic security. In the absence of a federal paid leave policy, a handful of states have enacted paid leave. This brief examines existing state policies and concludes with recommendations for state policymakers."]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness. By the National Center on Family Homelessness. (The Center, Newton, Massachusetts) 2009. 220 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/rc\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/rc_full_report.pdf)

["California is ranked near the bottom of all states, 48th, for the extent of child homelessness in our state based on the percentage of children who are homeless. The report's overall rankings reflect performance in four areas: child homelessness per capita, child well-being, risk for child homelessness, and state policy and planning. There are also indicators comparing the health and educational attainment of children in homeless families. With the release of this report and the state-by-state report cards, NCFH is launching its Campaign to End Child Homelessness. We hope to work with communities, providers, and advocates across the country to use these tools to bring the change needed

to make sure that every child who has a home.” Early Education in the News (March 16, 2009.)]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Strengthening Families and Communities: 2009 Resource Guide. By the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (The Department, Washington, DC) 2009. 87 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res\\_guide\\_2009/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res_guide_2009/)

[“This Resource Guide was written to support service providers in their work with parents, caregivers, and their children to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The guide includes information about protective factors that help reduce the risk of child maltreatment, strategies for changing how communities support families, and evidence-informed practices. It also offers suggestions for enhancing protective factors in families, tools to build awareness and develop community partnerships, information about child abuse and neglect, a directory of national organizations that work to strengthen families, and tip sheets in English and Spanish on specific parenting topics.”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## IMPROVED HEALTH

**Making Maternal and Child Health Care a Priority. By Helene Stebbins. Fact Sheet. (National Center for Children in Poverty, New York, New York) March 2009. 4 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_860.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_860.pdf)

[“To help inform the national and state-level debate on how to improve the health care system, ‘Making Maternal and Child Health Care a Priority’ takes a closer look at state policy choices that promote access to high-quality health care for mothers and children.” NCCP Update (March 17, 2009.)]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**“The Case against Breast-Feeding: Is Breast-Feeding Essential or is it an Instrument that Keeps Women Down?” By Hanna Rosin. IN: The Atlantic, vol. 303, no. 3 (April 2009) pp. 64-70.**

Full text at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200904/case-against-breastfeeding>

[“In certain overachieving circles, breast-feeding is no longer a choice - it’s a no-exceptions requirement, the ultimate badge of responsible parenting. Yet the actual health benefits of breast-feeding are surprisingly thin, far thinner than most popular literature indicates. Is breast-feeding right for every family? Or is it this generation’s vacuum cleaner - an instrument of misery that mostly just keeps women down?”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**“Does Breastfeeding Reduce the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome?” By M.M. Vennemann and others. IN: Pediatrics, vol. 123, no. 3 (March 2009) pp. e406-e410.**

Full text at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/123/3/e406>

[“This study shows that breastfeeding reduced the risk of sudden infant death syndrome by ~50% at all ages throughout infancy. We recommend including the advice to breastfeed through 6 months of age in sudden infant death syndrome risk-reduction messages.”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Births: Preliminary Data for 2007. By Brady E. Hamilton and others. National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 57, No. 12. (National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, Maryland) March 18, 2009. 23 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57\\_12.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_12.pdf)

[“This report features the latest data on teen births, nonmarital births, preterm births, low birthweight, cesarean delivery, and other measures. The data are based on over 99% of birth certificates reported to state vital statistics offices through the National Vital Statistics System.” National Center for Health Statistics News Release (March 18, 2009.)]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Teen Births: Examining the Recent Increase. By Kristin Anderson Moore. Child Trends Research Brief. No. 2009-08. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) March 2009. 7 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends\\_2009\\_03\\_13\\_FS\\_TeenBirthRate.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends_2009_03_13_FS_TeenBirthRate.pdf)

[“The National Center for Health Statistics just released new data showing that the teen birth rate increased again in 2007. This is the second increase in a row after a 14-year decline. A Child Trends research brief... explores whether the data reflect a short-term blip or a true reversal in the decline of the U.S. teen birth rate. It also considers potential explanations for the uptick in teen births, and raises data and research gaps that must be filled to inform public and private prevention efforts.... This brief is based on a paper by Kristin Anderson Moore, Ph.D., that resulted from a meeting of experts and researchers convened by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Moore commented, ‘These young parents are now caring for toddlers in an economic environment that is challenging even for adult parents.’” Child Trends E-Newsletter (March 18, 2009.)]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## **IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE**

**Child Care in America: Parents’ Perspectives. By the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. (NACCRRA, Arlington, Virginia) 2009. 50 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.naccrra.org/docs/NACCRRA\\_ChildCareInAmerica\\_ParentsPerspectives.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/docs/NACCRRA_ChildCareInAmerica_ParentsPerspectives.pdf)

[“Marla Campos, a single mother of two, is eligible for a childcare subsidy in California but can't use it because she is one of 234,000 on the waiting list. Karen Tomasini, a Wyoming grandmother with legal guardianship over her 5-year-old granddaughter, couldn't find affordable quality childcare and had to quit her job to take care of her. Leslie Dysinger of Virginia nearly left her teaching career because she and her husband were struggling to cover the cost of childcare for their 3-year-old son even with two incomes. And then there's the disturbing and sad story of Steve and Shelley Blecha of Missouri, whose 3-month-old son died of suffocation at a childcare setting.... These are four of the 44 stories compiled and released today by the National Association of Child Care Referral and Resource Agencies.... Two of the stories are from fathers. Three are from grandparents. Several are good-news stories about mothers who were able to get professional training, jobs or college degrees once they found stable, affordable childcare. Five profiles tell of children who died in unregulated or poorly supervised childcare settings.” The Early Ed Watch Blog (March 17, 2009.)]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**We Can Do Better: 2009 Update - NACCRRA’s Ranking of State Child Care Center Regulations and Oversight. By Rosemary Kendall and others. (National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Arlington, Virginia) March 2009. 161 p.**



Full text at: [http://www.naccrra.org/policy/recent\\_reports/docs/WCDB09/full-report.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/policy/recent_reports/docs/WCDB09/full-report.pdf)

Section links at: [http://www.naccrra.org/policy/recent\\_reports/WCDB09.php](http://www.naccrra.org/policy/recent_reports/WCDB09.php)

[“In 2007, our report... concluded that states fell short in meeting basic requirements needed to protect the health and safety of children in child care centers and to promote children’s development and learning.... How are states doing two years later? In this report, NACCRRRA updates the scores and rankings of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD) based on their current child care center licensing regulations and oversight.... This report scores the states on selected aspects of regulations and oversight of child care centers in late 2008. These scores were used to develop three rankings for each state: child care center oversight, child care center regulations and overall rank combining both of these scores.... Using a standard grading scale, no state earned an A. One state (DoD) earned a B, and one state (District of Columbia) earned a C. Two-thirds of the states (33 states) earned a failing grade, and 16 states (30 percent) only earned a D.... California, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska and New Mexico were ranked among the 10 states with the weakest oversight and regulations in both 2007 and 2009.”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Making Use of Economic Recovery Funds: Child Care Policy Options for States. By the Center for Law and Social Policy and National Women’s Law Center. (The Centers, Washington, DC) March 9, 2009. 10 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.clasp.org/publications/ccdbg\\_arra\\_policies.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/ccdbg_arra_policies.pdf)

[“This joint paper, written by CLASP and the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) offers state policymakers and advocates a set of stimulative policy options for spending CCDBG economic recovery funds that create new jobs, put additional resources into state economies, and/or help low-income families stay in the paid work force. These policy options will expand access to child care for low-income families and will improve the quality of available child care.” CLASP]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## **STUDIES TO COME**

[The following studies, reports, and documents have not yet arrived. California State Employees may place requests, and copies will be provided when the material arrives. All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.]

**“Consequences of Belonging to the ‘Clean Plate Club.’” By Brian Wansink and others. IN: Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, vol. 162, no. 10 (October 2008) pp. 994-995.**

[“How does encouraging a child to ‘clean’ his or her plate influence their eating behavior away from home? Our studies at preschools show children coming from ‘clean your Plate’ families display less self-control - they ate 35% more fruit loops - when given food options away from home, where parental controls do not exist. These findings suggest the importance of guiding, but not forcing, food decisions of children. An alternative approach to consider would be to provide moderate portions and smaller bowls, and to encourage the child to taste all foods at a meal and then determine whether they want additional servings.” The Mindless Eater (Fall 2008.) NOTE: “Consequences of Belonging...” will be available for loan.]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## **CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual “Protecting Our Children” National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. Sponsored by the National Indian Child Welfare Association. April 19-22, 2009. Peppermill Resort Casino, Reno, Nevada.**

For more information and to register: <http://www.nicwa.org/conference/>

[“All too often, tribal communities lack the full array of services that states have access. Every Indian child deserves the right to safety and a fair opportunity to receive services. When tribes have access to resources to provide services, the outcome for children to stay with their families is much better.... This year's conference will focus on the need to address access to resources by taking control and action to overcome the barriers that keep tribal communities from preventing the occurrence or recurrence of child abuse and neglect. We share an important responsibility to continue this work for our children and families. Workshops and presentations will feature innovative strategies to effectively meet the needs of our children and families through strong, collaborative partnerships. Tribes continue to work with counties, states, and other entities to improve healthy outcomes for their most precious resource - their children. Please join us as we gather in wonderful Reno, Nevada, to learn from each other and enhance positive outcomes for Indian children and families.”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Excellence in Early Childhood Educational Leadership - ExCEL Seminars.  
Sponsored by the Special Education Early Childhood Administrators Project**

**(SEECAP.) April 27-30, 2009, October 19-22, 2009, April 19-22, 2010. Kellogg West Center, Pomona, California.**

For more information: <http://www.sdcoe.net/student/eeps/seecap/?loc=excel&m=3>

[“ExCEL seminars provide support and opportunities for participants to develop knowledge and skills in the art and research-based science of effective leadership with content and practical learning activities relating specifically to early childhood programs and services. ... Individualized collegial support is provided to participants by ‘coaches’ who are seasoned in the fields of collaboration, organizational design, effective communication, personal leadership, facilitation, and management skills as they relate specifically to early childhood and early childhood special education. Intended Audience: Aspiring leaders - both parents and professionals - from all early childhood and /or early childhood special education agencies are invited to apply.”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**CDPI 2009 Spring Institute. Presented by the Child Development Policy Institute. May 19-20, 2009. The Sacramento Convention Center and the Citizen Hotel, Sacramento, California.**

For more information and to register:

<https://www.cdpi.net/cs/cdpi/print/htdocs/events.htm#spring>

[“Traditionally, CDPI's Spring Institute centers on the May Revision of the Governor's proposed budget. This year, the Legislature has already passed the FY 2009-10 Budget. However, it primarily relies on the passage of a series of fiscal initiatives in a Special Election to be held on May 19th. The Spring Institute could not be more timely. The election results will be known the night before the Institute starts and our speakers will react, detailing California's options going forward. Furthermore, Institute planners have chosen to add two components this year: federal and local fiscal planning.”]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)